# **Introduction**

A significant part of the programme should be dedicated to supporting tenants with their exit strategies, and as described in SoP\_2.1.1. to 2.1.3\_InitialProgrammeDesign\_RentalAssistance\_2023, this is defined as:

“the target population should be able to exit the supported rental assistance programme and be able to maintain their living conditions.”

This SoP describes in more detail how to support various exit strategies, which includes integration. Both livelihood development and integration more broadly take significant time and therefore activities associated with it should commence as early as possible in the rental assistance programme.

Tools and Examples from the toolkit, that may be useful to assist include:

* 3.4\_Example\_Inclusion\_LabourMarketIntegration\_RentalAssistance.docx
* An extract of an outline inclusion plan, listing out a range of activities developed in Slovakia as part of the 2022-2023 Ukraine response.
* 3.4\_Example\_IndividualHouseholdPlan\_RentalAssistance.docx
* An example of an individual household plan developed by social workers of the Slovak Red Cross, with a household on the rental and hosting assistance programmes as part of the 2022-2023 Ukraine response.
* 3.4\_Tool\_PERCO GUIDELINES on INTEGRATION of MIGRANTS.pdf
* Guidelines on how migrants can be supported to integrate in the host community, produced by European National Red Cross Societies.
* 3.4\_Tool\_Safe Referral pocket guide\_DanishRC.pdf
- Guidance on how to refer safely, how to identify service providers and how to follow-up on referrals.
* 3.4\_Tool\_Information\_checklist\_ENG.pdf
- Guidance on what to share with people arriving in a new location.

# **Supporting Integration**

In many contexts households may try to integrate with the host community. This may be for a range of reasons including:

* some households anticipate being displaced for so long or are displaced for significant periods that they naturally choose to re-build their lives in the area they were displaced to.
* some households cannot return to the place they lived prior to displacement because it is unsafe due to conflict and violence, their homes have been destroyed, because they face persecution and human rights violations, or because they face the effects of disasters and climate change.
* the location they were displaced to offers better life opportunities.
* If they stay in a specific country for a period of time, they may have the opportunity to gain citizenship which could afford them significant rights in that country or others (e.g. EU).

From the point of view of a practitioner delivering a rental assistance programme, a household that is supported along their integration pathway is likely to be better able to access income generating activities that allows rent to be paid after the supported rental period ends. In some situations, integrating may also allow the tenant household to find other accommodation that meets their needs.

In some contexts where the host government does not afford a status to the displaced which allows them to work legally (for fear of competing with the host community for example), a displaced household developing their social network with the host community can help them to access informal livelihood opportunities. There have been instances of innovative humanitarian actors giving toolkits to households to help them maintain the property, or ovens to support home baking which both had secondary uses.

At the end of 2023 IFRC is developing an integration framework which will include indicators. In lieu of this, an excellent resource is the information available from the UK Home Office and IOM available [here](https://unitedkingdom.iom.int/2019-indicators-integration-framework). In particular, see the 1-page [UK Home Office (2019) theory of change for achieving integration](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/805874/theory-of-change-for-achieving-integration-2019.pdf).

The Platform for European Red Cross Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants (PERCO) also has guidelines on integration of migrants, see toolkit.

On one rental programme in response to the Ukraine 2022 crisis, the following has been undertaken:

1. Assessment of activities that could contribute to integration.
2. Establishment of a range of services by the NS linked to integration such as language classes, employability support (translation of educational and vocational qualifications, support with writing CVs etc.), general information support (e.g. how to access the health care system).
3. Mapping out of referral opportunities (included those related to integration, such as other humanitarian actor’s livelihoods programmes).
4. When a household is enrolled on the rental programme the household is visited by a social worker from the National Society and an individual development plan is developed with the household. See example in the toolkit. This considers the specific needs of all members of the household. At this point the social worker will consider what arrangements can to be made to support the household members in relation to their needs. For example:
	* They might be orientated on how to access health care or the education system to get their children into school.
	* They might be invited to specific social events organised by the RC branch to help them expand their social networks.
	* For those with a disability they may be actively referred to a humanitarian actor who can support with the specific disability.
	* They could be enrolled to a language class
	* They could be offered a place an employability workshop to kick-start their ability to find work.
5. During subsequent visits (generally undertaken monthly) the social workers track the level of integration and progress along the individual household development plan using specific indicators.

This form of integration support requires adequate social worker capacity.

# **Other forms of Exit Support**

## **Onward travel**

Where households have specific aspirations to, for example, join family in another country. It may be appropriate to help them navigate the process if there is an appropriate application process that could be supported. For example, perhaps to refer them to an IOM or UNHCR scheme. Or if they are applying directly to a foreign government embassy perhaps to support them to pay for the medical tests that are part of the application process (if they or their family cannot afford these costs).

## **Return travel**

If the household has the desire to return, and it is safe for them return, a returnee assistance package could be developed, which could include supporting the household with travel costs, and potentially giving them a returnee grant which could cover other costs.

## **Repair/rebuild damaged home**

Often the RCRC works in disaster contexts where a household has had their home destroyed or damaged by the event. Sometimes the RC may try to support that person to repair or rebuild their home directly. Sometimes the RC may only be supporting people to access government assistance or other humanitarian actor’s programmes for repairs and rebuilding.

# **Monitoring related to the Exit strategy**

See SoP 3.2 Monitoring and Indicators. Where possible it can be important on an individual household level to actively track the household's path along the exit strategy through the development of key indicators for each house. E.g. At least 1 member of the household has attended an employability workshop, at least 1 member of the household works, household has started repairing their damaged home etc.